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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/498,805	02/07/2000	Mark R. Hillbush	21041-1300	9322

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ALSTON & BIRD LLP
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER

WOO, RICHARD SUKYOON

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/498,805

Applicant(s)

HILLBUSH ET AL.

Examin r

Richard Woo

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on th cover she t with the correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 14-16
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1-5,9-15,19-28,32-38,44,45,47,49-54,57-60,62,64,66-73,78-83,89,90,92,94-100,103-105,109,111-121,163,164,168-173 and 175.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims rejected are 1-5,9-15,19-28,32-38,44,45,47,49-54,57-60,62,64,66-73,78-83,89,90,92,94-100,103-105,109,111-121,163,164,168-173 and 175.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

- 1) Applicant's amendments filed July 31, 2003 are acknowledged.
- 2) Applicant's argument with respect to Wilz et al. (WO 98/24036) as being not eligible for 102(b) prior arts has been considered and is persuasive.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) being anticipated by Kadaba et al. have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new ground of rejection has been necessitated by adding the limitation including: the dispatch order requesting pickup of the package at one of a plurality of locations.

- 3) The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 4) Claims 111-112, 120-121, 163-164 and 168-169 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knowles et al. (US 5,869,819).

W.R.T. Claims 111 and 163:

Knowles et al. discloses a method for shipping a package, comprising:
receiving a customer entered order;

validating shipping information associated with the order (see Figs. 11, 13 and 14 and the detailed description thereof; by requesting package identification number for package and assigning a unique identification number for each order);

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printing a label for affixation to the package, the label containing label shipping information (see Figs.);

acquiring the package from the customer;

scanning a label affixed to the package (see Figs. for the scanner); and

delivering the package to the recipient.

W.R.T. Claims 112, 120-121, 164 and 168-169:

Knowles et al. further discloses the method comprising:

wherein the step of scanning the label is carried out at the point of acquisition of the package;

storing status information corresponding to the status of shipment of the package (tracking information);

wherein the shipping information includes information relating to the intended recipient; and

wherein the step of validating shipping information comprises validating address information of the intended recipient (using a zip code).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5) Claims 1-5, 9-15, 19-23, 28, 33-36, 38, 51-53, 58-64, 66-68, 73, 78-81, 83, 97-98, 103-105, 107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadaba (WO 96/388800) in view of Wojcik et al. (US 5,666,493).

W.R.T. Claims 1, 11, 21 and 66:

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Kadaba discloses a system for processing package information, comprising:
a dispatch system (38) for generating a dispatch order for pickup of the package;
an order receiving system (14);
a communication system (42, 44, 28);
a communications receiving device (52) used by the service person;
a package information processing component (40); and
wherein the order to ship a package is an on call order to pick up the package at
a place designated by the customer (drop box) (via package pickup system 56).

Kadaba further discloses a method for processing packaging information,
comprising:

receiving a customer-entered order from an Internet accessible computer, and
communicating the customer-entered pickup and shipping order to a dispatch system;
at the dispatch system (38), generating a dispatch order for pickup of the
package; and
communicating the dispatch order to a selected service person (see Figs.),
wherein the selected service person is instructed to pick up the package for delivery.

However, Kadaba does not expressly disclose the invention including the
dispatch order requesting pickup of the package at one of a plurality of locations.

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Wojcik et al. is cited to show a system for managing customer orders including the dispatch order requesting the user to select a pick up location from a plurality of locations (see Fig. 29 and the description thereof).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to prompt the user (using the Internet ready computer system) to select one of a plurality of pick up locations to instruct the service person to pick up the package at the location being selected by the user, as taught by Wojcik et al., for the purpose of providing the customer an efficient pickup system to select the most desirable location among a plurality of locations and consolidating a plurality of communications between each subsidiary (or regional branch location of the business) and the carrier by providing the customer one efficient, consolidated Internet ready system to select one pickup location of the plurality of locations.

W.R.T. Claims 2-5, 9-10, 12-15, 19-20, 22-23, 28, 33-36, 38, 51-53, 58-64, 67-68, 73, 78-81, 83, 97-98, 103-105, 107:

The modified system of Kadaba discloses the system and method comprising:
a package shipment status information system (46);
wherein the status information comprises tracking information (46);
the communication device being selected from the well known communication systems (see Figs.);

wherein the status information comprises the shipping history of the customer (database 46 storing the information);

a payment system (48) associated with the order receiving system;

wherein the order receiving system provides a shipment summary interface, the interface displaying service options: package pickup information, shipment summary information, adding another package to the shipment, shipping history information, shipment tracking information (see Figs.);

wherein the order receiving system provides a shipping history interface including shipping information fields, displaying shipping history information, shipping history display options including a "shipment details" option (see Figs.); and

a customer profile information system that stores preference customer information.

6) Claims 24-27, 49-50, 69-72 and 94-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadaba and Wojcik et al. and further in view of Knowles et al..

The modified invention of Kadaba discloses the system and method for processing the package but does not specifically disclose the invention including:

the dispatch system comprising a dispatch center for determining whether a pick up point is within a predetermined service area by reference to a zip code, wherein the dispatch system orders the service person to pick up within the service area, and provides the customer about the other drop-off location if the requested location is not within the service area; and

a delivery information acquisition device for scanning a label on the package, wherein the order receiving system comprises a web server.

Knowles et al. teaches, for a system and method for shipping a package, that the system and method include:

the dispatch system comprising a dispatch center for determining whether a pick up point is within a predetermined service area by reference to a zip code, wherein the dispatch system orders the service person to pick up within the service area, and provides the customer about the other drop-off location if the requested location is not within the service area (see Fig. 13B for displaying the shipping route, and location field); and

a delivery information acquisition device for scanning a label on the package (see the scanner in Figs.), wherein the order receiving system comprises a web server.

Since Knowles et al. and the modified Kadaba are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Knowles et al. would have been well recognized in the pertinent field of the modified Kadaba.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kadaba and Wojcik et al. such that the dispatch system determines a pick up point by reference to a zip code within the shipping route; a scanner is provided for scanning a label on the package; and the order receiving system comprises a web server, as taught by Knowles et al., for

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the purpose of providing an Internet Access System which includes a up-to-date package routing, tracking and management system.

7) Claims 115-119 and 170-172 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowles et al. in view of Kadaba and Wojcik et al..

Knowles et al. discloses the invention as recited earlier but does not expressly disclose the invention including the step of:

- generating a dispatch order for pick up the package;
- communicating the dispatch order to a selected service person;
- receiving the dispatch order with a communications receiving device; and
- picking up the package at a place selected by the customer (drop box).

Kadaba teaches, for a system and method for processing the package, that the system and method include:

- a dispatch system (38);
- a communication system (42, 44, 28);
- a communications receiving device (52) used by the service person;
- a package information processing component (40); and

wherein the order to ship a package is an on call order to pick up the package at a place designated by the customer (drop box) (via package pickup system 56).

Wojcik et al. is cited to show a system for managing customer orders including the dispatch order requesting the user to select a pick up location from a plurality of locations (see Fig. 29 and the description thereof).

Since Kadaba, Wojcik et al. and Knowles et al. are from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Kadaba and Wojcik et al. would have been well recognized in the pertinent field of Knowles et al..

Accordingly, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of processing the package of Knowles et al. such that the method includes generating a dispatch order for pick up the package; communicating the dispatch order to a selected service person; receiving the dispatch order with a communications receiving device; and picking up the package at a place selected by the customer (drop box), as taught by Kadaba and Wojcik et al., for the purpose of providing customers with direct access to a package delivery company's computer system to have a selection for shipping services from the computer system.

8) Claims 54, 82 and 99-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadaba and Wojcik et al. in view of Hahn-Carlson (US 5,910,896).

The modified Kadaba discloses the invention as recited earlier, but does not specifically disclose the invention including the steps of:

providing the order receiving system with a payment interface having payment options; and

obtaining a payment from the customer, (receiving credit card payment information).

Hahn-Carlson teaches, for a shipment transaction system and an arrangement thereof, that the system includes a payment interface system (Fig.1) and the payment arrangement.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the payment interface system and the payment arrangement into the modified invention of Kadaba, as taught by Hahn-Carlson, for the purpose of providing a convenient transaction protocol between the delivery, billing, and payment aspects of the shipment transaction.

9) Claims 113-114, 173 and 175 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowles et al. in view of Hahn-Carlson (US 5,910,896).

Knowles et al. discloses the invention as recited earlier, but does not specifically disclose the invention including the steps of:

providing the order receiving system with a payment interface having payment options; and

obtaining a payment from the customer, (receiving credit card payment information).

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Hahn-Carlson teaches, for a shipment transaction system and an arrangement thereof, that the system includes a payment interface system (Fig.1) and the payment arrangement.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the payment interface system and the payment arrangement into the invention of Knowles et al., as taught by Hahn-Carlson, for the purpose of providing a convenient transaction protocol between the delivery, billing, and payment aspects of the shipment transaction.

Conclusion

10) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
GAU 3629
October 20, 2003



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600